

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07082 251506Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 FEAE-00 OES-06 /091 W

----- 118435

O P 251402Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1594

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 72

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 25

REF: BEIRUT 7055

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07082 251506Z

1. SUMMARY: HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION ENDS WITH UNWARRANTED

LOCAL SPECULATION ABOUT A U.S. CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH. AGREEMENT TO CEASE INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING IN BEIRUT APPARENTLY HOLDING, BUT CONFRONTATION LINE FIGHTING CONTINUES INTENSE. ARTILLERY FIRE AT TRIPOLI, WHERE PALESTINIANS MAY BEGIN HAVING SUPPLY PROBLEMS. LOCAL RESISTANCE TO SYRIANS IN BEKAA. METN CAMPAIGN STILL NOT BEGUN. AL DEPUTY KHOLI RETURNS TO BEIRUT. SOME HOPE THAT PHALANGE AND PLO MAY AGREE ON PALESTINIAN METN WITHDRAWAL. LEBANESE LEFT NOT INVOLVED IN TALKS. JUNBLATT TAKING SOMEWHAT LESS BELLIGERENT ATTITUDE. ESSO TO END OPERATION IN LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION. AFTER CALL ON PERE CHARBEL KASSIS, HEAD OF ORDER OF MARONITE MONKS, EARLY AUG 24, U.S. DIPLOMATS HOUGHTON AND MACK DEPARTED JOUNIEH BY SHIP FOR CYPRUS. VISIT SPARKED RUMORS IN BEIRUT AUG 25 THAT U.S. PLANNING ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH. (SEPTELS).

3. MILITARY SITUATION. BEIRUT AREA. AFTER MEETING AUG 24 BETWEEN AL MILITARY COMMANDER GHONEIM AND CHAMOUN (SEE FURTHER PARA 8 BELOW), AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED TO CEASE EAST-WEST BEIRUT ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS, EFFECTIVE 1700 LOCAL. AS OF EARLY AUG 25, INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING APPEARS TO HAVE CEASED. RIGHTISTS CLAIM THAT SOME OF RECENT SHELLING ON WEST AS WELL AS EAST BEIRUT DONE BY PALESTINIANS AT ALEY. INTENSE GROUND FIGHTING CONTINUES, HOWEVER. L'ORIENT REPORTS 24 KILLED AUG 24 IN BEIRUT, AND ANOTHER 73 KILLED IN SUBURBS SOUTH OF CITY. HEAVY FIGHTING IN AREA OF BEIRUT RACE COURSE (19 HORSES KILLED, TOO) WHEN CHRISTIAN FORCES ASSAULTED PALESTINIANS IN AREA OF FOUAD I AVENUE, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT. AL-MUHARRIR REPORTS CHRISTIAN ASSAULT IN AREA OF TAYYOUNI SQUARE, AND PALESTINIAN ASSAULT IN AREA OF AIN EL-RUMANNEH. AMCHITE RADIO SAYS PALESTINIAN ASSAULT IN AREA OF FRENCH MEDICAL SCHOOL REPELLED DURING NIGHT.

4. TRIPOLI AREA. NO CHANGE IN POSITIONS ANYWHERE. ARTILLERY FIRE STILL BEING EXCHANGED BUT NOTICEABLE DECREASE FROM LEFTIST SIDE. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARMY G-2, LEFTIST SIDE UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY RESUPPLY, EXCEPT WITH SMALL BOATS, AS PORT IS BEING SHELLED ALMOST CONSTANTLY. RELATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07082 251506Z

BETWEEN FARUQ MUQQADAM AND LEFTIST ALLIANCE SEVERELY STRAINED. MUQQADAM CANNOT AFFORD BREAK AT PRESENT TIME, BUT IF SYRIANS/CHRISTIANS COMPLETE ENCIRCLEMENT OF TRIPOLI, HE WOULD LIKELY GO OVER TO SYRIANS. HIS CURRENT STRENGTH IS ESTIMATED BY G-2 AS 400 FIGHTERS. AS-SAFIR SAYS CHRISTIANS REINFORCING IN AREA.

5. BEKAA AREA. SYRIANS HAVE PULLED OUT OF DAYR AL-QAMAR,

BUT REMAIN IN CONTROL OF ALL ROADS AROUND CITY. STILL IN ZAHLE. IN BAALBEK, LEFTIST ALLIANCE IS TAKING ACTION AGAINST OPEN SUPPORTERS OF SYRIANS, PRIMARILY FOLLOWERS OF MUSA SADR, AND SEVERAL OF THEIR HOMES WERE BLOWN UP ON AUG 24. SYRIANS NOT WILLING COMMIT SUFFICIENT FORCES TO ESTABLISH INTERNAL CONTROL OF CITY AND REMAIN ON OUTSKIRTS, BUT RUN PERIODIC PATROLS AND CONVOYS THROUGH CITY. SYRIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE CONDUCTED HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OF VILLAGE OF MAJDEL-ANJAR NEAR SYRIAN BORDER.

6. ELSEWHERE. IN SANNIN AREA, LEBANESE ARMY CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND NOW TOTAL AROUND 250 TROOPS. NO GROUND ACTION PLANNED AS YET. HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE CONTINUES IN METN AREA. IN SOUTH, SYRIANS CONTINUE FIRE AGAINST VILLAGE OF ROUM.

7. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. KARAME SAYS SUCCESS OF SUMMIT MEETING WILL DEPEND ON ABILITY OF ARAB STATES TO BURY THEIR DIFFERENCES. AL DEPUTY KHOLI, WHO RETURNED TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS AUG 24, SAYS EIGHT ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO MEETING. KHOLI, WHO SAW KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS, VISITED ARAFAT IN BEIRUT AUG 24. HE SAID TWO ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WERE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND SIGNS OF RESTRAINT ON BOTH WARRING SIDES. KHOLI EXPECTED TO PURSUE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN HIS ABSENCE BY AL MILITARY COMMANDER.

8. ARAB LEAGUE - PHALANGE - PALESTINIAN TALKS. AL MILITARY COMMANDER GENERAL GHONEIM MET WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PHALANGE LEADER JOSEPH ABU SHARAF EARLY AUG 24. PRINCIPAL MATTER DISCUSSED WAS "PEACE AGREEMENT NO. 4" (I.E., FOURTH LEAGUE-SPONSORED CEASEFIRE). CENTRAL CONCEPT OF PLAN, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, IS THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 07082 251506Z

WITHDRAW FROM HIGH METN AREA, TO BE REPLAC
TTWPPSOME AREAS
BY ARAB LEAGUE FORCES. AMCHITE RADIO SAYS CHAMOUN AGREES TO IT. PHALANGE REPORTEDLY INSISTS THAT ARAFAT HIMSELF SIGN AGREEMENT. AL CHIEF OF STAFF COL. SHADDAD REPORTEDLY HAS GONE TO DAMASCUS TO SEEK SYRIAN APPROVAL. PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE APPROVED PLAN, WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS. ALL PARTIES ARE SUPPOSED TO MEET FRIDAY, AUG 27, AT ASHRAFIEH. LEBANESE LEFT SAYS IT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF PLAN, AND IBRAHIM QULAYLAT SAYS HIS GROUP WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FRIDAY MEETING. PHALANGISTS REPORTEDLY SKEPTICAL THAT FRIDAY MEETING WILL EVER TAKE PLACE. GHONEIM ALSO MET WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AUG 24.

9. POLITICAL NOTES. RAYMOND EDDE SAYS THAT IF THERE IS

TO BE BATTLE FOR WEST BEIRUT, IT WILL BE LONGEST, MOST
TERRIFYING AND MOST DEVASTATING OF ENTIRE WAR. SAEB SALAM
KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH BOTH PHALANGISTS AND PALESTINIANS. HE,
AS WELL AS EDDE AND ARAFAT, REPORTEDLY SEEKING TO ARRANGE
JUNBLATT-KARAME RECONCILIATION. SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS
SARKIS WILL VISIT DAMASCUS SOON. JUNBLATT, PERHAPS GETTING
OFF WAR PATH, SAID, "WE INSIST ON AN INCREASE OF ARAB
LEAGUE FORCES TO 25,000 IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SECURITY
DURING FIRST MONTHS OF SARKIS PRESIDENCY."
WE HEAR THAT JUNBLATT IS UNHAPPY WITH ACTIVITIES
IN LOWER CHOUF OF LAA, WHICH HE CALLED "THE PENTAGON OF YARZE."

10. ESSO, FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF MOBIL, ANNOUNCED IT IS
CLOSING DOWN IN LEBANON EFFECTIVE AUG 31.
HUNT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760324-0868
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760823/aaaaatcs.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7055
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 25
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006